OVER-BRIDGES—SHANMUKHAM CANAL

96. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any bridge or foot-path over the Shanmukham Canal has been constructed to provide facilities for people residing on one side of the canal to cross over to the other;

(*b*) if so, the number of such over-bridges; where are they put up; the amount expended for such works;

(*c*) the total length of the Shanmukham Canal;

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that, due to want of over-bridges, people residing on the southern side of the canal experience great difficulty to cross over to the north;

(*e*) where is the nearest over-bridge to Padiyur village; the distance from Padiyur village to the nearest over-bridge?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Bridges have been constructed over the canal for the purpose.

(*b*) Three. The Edakkulam bridge at 0/8, Chelurkavu foot-bridge at 1/2 and Edathirinji foot-bridge at 2/3 of the canal. The cost of these is Rs. 10,000, 1,500 and 1,500 respectively.

(*c*) The length of the canal proper is 3 miles and 4½ furlongs.

(*d*) and (*e*) The existing bridges are considered sufficient for the present. The foot-bridge at Edathirinji is the nearest to Padiyur village, and the distance from this village to the bridge is only about 2 furlongs.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know, Sir who made the selection for the sites regarding these bridges?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* These bridges were selected in accordance with the local representations and in continuation of established pathways in the area.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know which was the bridge actually constructed at the cost of the people themselves over the Shanmukham Canal?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I have no idea.

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Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Has the Government got any communication regarding the bridge at the second milestone?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The second milestone is somewhere in the fields. There is no bridge in the fields. No representations have been received for a bridge there.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Was not the path to Padiyur before the construction of the bridge through the fields?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The fields are generally flooded.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* There will be no flood there.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is almost near the backwaters. During high tide, there will be water in the fields. There is no established foot-path through that field.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Have Government received any petition from the inhabitants of Edathirinji and Padiyur for a bridge?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There were several petitions for bridges. We carefully looked into the matter and constructed these three bridges. There was a representation to construct another bridge in continuation or along the foot-path coming from the Peishkar Road. That is now under consideration.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are Government aware that the arrangements now made are insufficient?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The question will again be enquired into to see what can be done in the matter.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* How many bridges are there in the municipal area?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I do not think there is any bridge in the municipal area.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* It is seen that one is constructed at a cost of Rs. 10,000 and another at a cost of Rs. 1,500. What is this difference due to?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* One is a road bridge and the other is a foot-bridge.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* What will be the minimum cost for the construction of a foot bridge?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* You can take it as Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 2,000.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Will the Government inquire into the matter of bridges once again?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I will do that.

GRATUITIES SANCTIONED BY THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT— DISBURSEMENT OF

97. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas- Talappalli):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of persons to whom gratuities sanctioned by the Ceylon Government were disbursed through Cochin treasuries;

(*b*) the amount so disbursed;

(*c*) the balance to be paid?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):*

(*a*) and (*b*) Information cannot be furnished, since the period is not defined.

(*c*) The balance to be paid at the end of May 1940 in respect of sanctions received till that date was Rs. 13,797—12—4.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know when the Government got the first requisition from the Ceylon Government to disburse these gratuities through our treasuries.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier *(Cheruthuruthi):* May I know what is the delay in disbursing the amount?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* There is no delay on our part.

LICENSES UNDER NEWSPAPERS ACT

98. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether there is any provision in the Newspapers Act to the effect that if the printer and publisher of a newspaper is dead, *ipso facto*, the license for the paper is cancelled;

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